United Nations A/AC.105/C.1/LTS/2015/L.1

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
11 February 2015

Original: English

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Fifty-second session
Vienna, 2-13 February 2015

Draft report of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities

1. In accordance with paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 69/85, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at is fifty-second session, reconvened its Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities.

2. The Working Group held seven meetings, from 3 to 12 February 2015, under the chairmanship of Peter Martinez (South Africa).

3. In accordance with the workplan extended by the Committee at its fifty-seventh session (A/69/20, para. 199), the Working Group had before it the following:

(a) Note by the Secretariat containing an updated set of draft guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities (A/AC.105/C.1/L.340);

(b) Working paper by the Chair of the Working Group containing a draft report of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities (A/AC.105/C.1/L.343);

(c) Conference room paper containing a proposal by the United States of America for an additional guideline (A/AC.105/C.1/2015/CRP.10);

(d) Conference room paper containing comments and proposed amendments by Germany on the updated set of draft guidelines (A/AC.105/C.1/2015/CRP.11);

(e) Conference room paper containing a proposal by Belgium for additional text to be inserted in the updated set of draft guidelines (A/AC.105/C.1/2015/CRP.12);

(f) Conference room paper submitted by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States containing comments and proposed amendments to the updated set of draft guidelines for the long-term sustainability of outer space activities (A/AC.105/C.1/2015/CRP.19/Rev.1);

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(g) Conference room paper submitted by the Russian Federation containing an analysis and proposals for an additional guideline on the achievement of a uniform interpretation of the right of self-defence in conformity with the United Nations Charter as applied to outer space as a factor in maintaining outer space a safe and conflict-free environment and promoting the long-term sustainability of outer space activities (A/AC.105/C.1/2015/CRP.22);

(h) Conference room paper submitted by the Russian Federation containing an analysis and proposals for an additional guideline on considerations regarding the modalities of consolidating the understanding on issues pertaining to the enhancement of the practice in registering space objects in view of the necessity of ensuring the safety of space operations (A/AC.105/C.1/2015/CRP.23);

(i) Conference room paper submitted by the Russian Federation containing an analysis and proposals for six additional guidelines on additional considerations and proposals aimed at building up understanding of the priority aspects, comprehensive meaning, and the functions of the concept and practices of ensuring the long-term sustainability of outer space activities (A/AC.105/C.1/2015/CRP.24);

(j) Conference room paper submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran containing a proposed amendment for the proposal for the consolidation of the set of draft guidelines on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities (A/AC.105/C.1/2015/CRP.25);

(k) Conference room paper submitted by France containing comments and proposed amendments to the updated set of draft guidelines (A/AC.105/C.1/2015/CRP.28);

(l) Conference room paper submitted by the Russian Federation containing a proposal on the review and consideration of the concept of a United Nations information platform serving common needs in collecting and sharing information on near-Earth space monitoring in the interests of safety of space operations, and its architectural and programmatic aspects (A/AC.105/C.1/2015/CRP.32);

(m) Conference room paper submitted by the Russian Federation containing comments on the identification of cross-links between the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space Activities and the topic of developing guidelines on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities (A/AC.105/C.1/2015/CRP.33).

4. At the first meeting of the Working Group, the Chair of the Working Group presented a review of the progress made since the fifty-first session of the Subcommittee, in February 2014, and an outline of the work to be accomplished by the Working Group during the current session.

5. The Working Group noted that at its fifty-seventh session, in 2014, the Committee had agreed on an extension of the workplan for the Working Group (A/69/20, para. 199), and that according to that extended workplan, the fifty-eighth session of the Committee, in 2015, would mark the deadline for proposing additional guidelines or significant new elements to existing guidelines. The Working Group also noted with appreciation that some delegations had submitted such proposals prior to the current session of the Subcommittee, and that those proposals had been circulated to the national points of contact and uploaded to

the page on the website of the Office of Outer Space Affairs dedicated to the long-term sustainability of outer space activities.

6. The Working Group noted that the finalization of the expert group reports in 2014 had marked the transfer of the discussion of the guidelines from the expert groups to the Working Group.

7. The Working Group noted that, in addition to the seven Working Group meetings scheduled for the present session of the Subcommittee, the Chair would also hold informal consultations with interested delegations, and that the Chair and the translation and terminology reference group would continue to consider questions specific to translation and the use of terminology in the set of draft guidelines.

8. At the second meeting of the Working Group, the Chair of the Working Group presented a summary of the informal consultations held on 4 and 5 February 2015, where interested delegations discussed proposals for additional guidelines and for restructuring the set of draft guidelines.

9. At the third meeting of the Working Group, the Chair of the Working Group invited delegations proposing additional guidelines or a restructuring of the set of draft guidelines to introduce their proposals. Proposals contained in conference room papers A/AC.105/C.1/2015/CRP.10, A/AC.105/C.1/2015/CRP.19, A/AC.105/C.1/2015/CRP.22, A/AC.105/C.1/2015/CRP.23, A/AC.105/C.1/2015/CRP.24 and A/AC.105/C.1/2015/CRP.28 were presented by the respective delegations and an exchange of views took place.

10. At its fourth meeting, the Working Group commenced the consideration of the updated set of draft guidelines (A/AC.105/C.1/L.340).

11. At the fifth meeting of the Working Group, the Chair of the Working Group presented a summary of the informal consultations held on 9 and 10 February 2015, and the Working Group continued its exchange of views on the updated set of draft guidelines (A/AC.105/C.1/L.340).

12. At the sixth meeting of the Working Group, the Chair of the Working Group presented a summary of the informal consultations held on 11 February, and the Working Group noted that an updated version of the set of draft guidelines would be prepared in all official languages of the United Nations prior to the fifty-eighth session of the Committee in 2015. The Working Group noted that the deadline for submitting clarifying information to be included in that document was 1 April 2015.

13. The Working Group noted that the Chair of the Working Group would consult with the Chair of the Committee and with the Secretariat regarding the scheduling of the fifty-eighth session of the Committee so as to enable the Working Group to meet during the session and benefit from the interpretation services.

14. Also at its sixth meeting, the Working Group noted that its work during the current session of the Subcommittee had been affected by a lack of time.

15. At its seventh meeting, on 12 February 2015, the Working Group adopted the present report.